THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."—ACTS XXII: 16.

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DISCOURSE BY PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

THE following remarks were made by President Wilford Woodruff at the General Conference of the Church, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, October 4, 1896.

If I ever felt thankful in my life for anything, I do this morning that I am alive, that I stand in the flesh and have again the privilege of assembling in conference. I am thankful that I have the privilege of meeting in this capacity Prophets, Patriarchs, Apostles, Elders and Latter-day Saints. For the sixty-three years of the sixty-six since the organization of the Church I have been blessed to meet, when at home, with the general conferences of the Church. I have listened to the testimony of Prophets and Apostles and Elders of Israel, including that good and great man, the Prophet Joseph Smith, whom God raised up and appointed from before the foundation of the world to stand in the flesh in the latter days and organize the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to prepare the way for the coming of the Son of Man, to warn the whole world as far as doors should be opened, and to prepare for the great events to transpire in the generation in which we live. The testimony of the Prophet Joseph has been a strong one concerning the great and last dispensation of God to man on the earth. Upwards of eighteen hundred years have rolled away since the death of the Savior of the world and His Apostles, and the God of heaven knows what it cost the Jewish nation to shed the blood of their Savior and their Shiloh, and the blood of the Apostles. The blood of the Lord's anointed which was shed by that nation in that day cost more than the human family can comprehend. Well might the Savior say, while passing through that ignominious death upon the cross, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Truly, they

knew not what they did; but the effect of it has been manifest with the house of Israel now for eighteen hundred years, and the end is not yet. So I will say with regard to the Gentiles. The God of heaven knows what it will cost them for shedding the blood of the Prophet of God and his brother, and the Apostles and brethren who laid down their lives for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ. It costs something to shed righteous blood. And the Gentiles have not got eighteen hundred years before them in which to pay the debt. The words of the Lord have got to be fulfilled upon them in the day and generation in which these holy men have been slain.

I refer to these things because I know not how long I may have the privilege of bearing my testimony of the Gospel of Christ on the earth. The revelations that are in the Bible, the predictions of the Patriarchs and Prophets who saw by vision and revelation the last dispensation and fullness of times, plainly tell us what is to come to pass. The 49th chapter of Isaiah is having its fulfillment, as are the sayings of the Patriarchs and Prophets as laid down in the records of divine truth. And they will be rapid in their fulfillment. I have often said in my teachings, if the world want to know what is coming to pass, let them read the revelations of St. John. Read of the judgments of God that are going to overtake the world in the last dispensation. Read the papers and see what is taking place in our own nation and in the nations of the earth, and what does it all mean? It means the commencement of the fulfillment of what the Prophets of God have predicted. In the Doctrine and Covenants there are many revelations given through the mouth of the Prophet of God; these revelations will all have their fulfillment, as the Lord lives, and no power can hinder it. In one of the revelations the Lord told Joseph Smith:

Behold, verily I say unto you, the angels are crying unto the Lord day and night, who are ready and waiting to be sent forth to reap down the fields;

But the Lord saith unto them, pluck not up the tares while the blade is yet tender, (for verily your faith is weak,) lest you destroy the wheat also.

Therefore let the wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest is fully ripe, then ye shall first gather out the wheat from among the tares, and after the gathering of the wheat, behold and lo! the tares are bound in bundles, and the field remaineth to be burned.

I want to bear testimony to this congregation, and to the heavens and the earth, that the day is come when those angels are privileged to go forth and commence their work. They are laboring in the United States of America; they are laboring among the nations of the earth; and they will continue. These things are at our doors, and neither you nor I can hinder them. We need not marvel or wonder at anything that is transpiring in the earth. The world do not comprehend the revelations of God. They did not in the days of the Jews; yet all that the Prophets had spoken concerning them came to pass. So in our day, these things will come to pass. I heard the Prophet Joseph bear his testimony to these events that would transpire in the earth. I have had the privilege during my life to see the beginning of the fulfillment of the words of the Prophet

of God unto the inhabitants of the earth. He lived but a short time; but the Savior's life was much shorter after entering the ministry. He was put to death, as were all His Apostles, excepting John; and that blood has been paid for as far as time would admit. We cannot draw a veil over the events that await this generation. No man that is inspired by the Spirit and power of God can close his ears, his eyes or his lips to these things. I do not know that I shall live to see much more; it is not likely that I shall; but I have lived to see the commencement in the earth. I have lived to see the words of the Prophet of God being fulfilled concerning Zion, concerning the mountains of Israel, and the gathering together of the Lord's people to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man. We have been led to these mountains in fulfillment of revelation. We have laid a foundation for the gathering of the House of Israel and the Saints of the living God. I hope that we as a people may comprehend these things. I have listened to the testimony, not only of the Prophet of God, but also of many of the Apostles. I remember very well the last charge that Joseph gave to the Apostles. We had as little idea that he was going from us as the Apostles of the Savior did that He was going to be taken from them. Joseph talked with us as plainly as did the Savior to His Apostles, but we did not understand that he was about to depart from us any more than the Apostles understood the Savior. Now, I have heard of other parties rising up and pretending that the Prophet Joseph Smith gave unto them a charge to lead and direct the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I want to say that it is false; there is not a word of truth in it. When he delivered that charge to the Apostles he was filled with the power of God. His face was clear as amber, and the room was filled with the Spirit of God, like the holy fire. In his address he told us that he had received at the hands of the Almighty God all the keys, and powers, and priesthood, and ordinances and gifts belonging to the dispensation in which we lived. "Now," says he, "I have sealed all these blessings upon your heads, upon you Apostles of the Lamb of God, who have been chosen to bear off this Church and kingdom on the earth;" and after making this solemn proclamation to us, he said, "Now, you have got to round up your shoulders and bear off this kingdom, or you will be damned." I never shall forget that. All of those Apostles to-day are in the spirit world, excepting myself, and they know that what he said is true; and those of us who have the Spirit of God know that it is true.

I feel to thank God for the progress of the work. The Elders of Israel are abroad among the nations carrying the Gospel to the children of men, and the Lord is blessing them and opening the way before them. It is true, our doctrine is not popular. In fact, the Latter-day Saints as a body have been under a ban, in a great measure, from the organization of the Church until of late. The doctrine of Jesus is an unpopular doctrine. But there is only one Gospel; never was but one Gospel ordained of God to man for the salvation of the human family. That Gospel was taught by the Savior and by His Apostles. It was taught Joseph Smith by Moroni, and the Priesthood was given unto him by John the Baptist and Peter, James and John. The first principle of that Gospel is faith. Well, the

people of the world may say, we all believe in Jesus Christ. Yes, but there is something to do besides believing in Christ. We must repent of our sins, be baptized for the remission of them, and receive the Holy Ghost. This is the doctrine taught by Christ and His Apostles. The same Gospel was taught to Adam and by him to his children. These doctrines have been revealed to us by the administration of angels. The gifts, the graces, and powers that belonged to that Gospel are with this people, and have been from the organization of the Church.

My brethren and sisters, we must be faithful, because the responsibility is great and mighty that rests upon us as bearers of the Holy Priesthood. You will see many strange things take place in the earth. We are at the end, so to speak, of the six thousand years. We are bordering on the millennium, when the Son of Man shall come in the clouds of heaven. Therefore, we cannot lay down our Priesthood and the work which the God of heaven has put into our hands. The eyes of God and the heavenly host are upon us. The eyes of the Prophet Joseph and all those sanctified spirits who have laid down their lives for the work of God and testimony of Jesus are upon us. Therefore, I feel this morning to bear my testimony to these things. The Lord has blessed me, so far as life is concerned, a long time. I have been connected with this Church while almost two or three quorums of Apostles have passed away. Let us lay these things to heart. Let us look at our position before the Lord. Let us be true and faithful in the work of the ministry and in doing the things God requires at our hands. God has blessed us. He has led us unto these mountains of Israel. The prophet of God was inspired to bring the people to this great American desert. There were no marks of the white man here, no marks of agriculture, and nothing to encourage any man to stop here; but President Brigham Young pitched his tent here, and laid the foundation of this city, with these broad streets and sidewalks, in the midst of sand and sagebrush. The Lord's Spirit was with him, and he saw what was to do here. We are in the midst of the mountains of Israel, prophesied of as the gathering place of the people of God in the last days, where they might stand in holy places while the judgments of God worked in the earth. Let us try to do our duty, and labor for the Holy Spirit. The devil and the fallen spirits have labored from the creation of the world to thwart the purposes of God. He did it in the days of Christ. He tempted even Him forty days and forty nights. His Apostles did not escape, either. We shall not escape any more than they did. The arch-enemy is laboring for the overthrow of this Church and kingdom. He knows something about it. Therefore, you and I ought to pursue a course wherein we can be justified before the Lord. There are many events before us and at our door, and they follow each other in quick succession. No power on earth or under the earth can stay the fulfillment of these things. You can hardly see them with your eyes, hear them with your ears, and feel them in your spirits. And when these strange things take place, no man should marvel and wonder at them, because they are in the great programme. They have been decreed by Almighty God, and these things are only the beginning of sorrows.

I want to make a few remarks on another subject. Whenever the Lord has a people on the earth, no matter in what age of the world, they will dove-tail right square into any other dispensation. You may see that throughout the whole history of the world. When Christ was born and entered into the ministry, and when He chose His Apostles they ackowledged every revelation that had ever been given from father Adam down to their day. They had the same Gospel, the same gifts, the same fruits. Now, if these Latter-day Saints are the saints of God, their works will be the same as were Christ's and the Apostles'. I hold in my hand the Doctrine and Covenants, containing revelations given through the Prophet Joseph Smith while he dwelt in the flesh. Read those revelations, and from beginning to end they unite with all dispensations God has had on the earth. And that is not all. When God has a people on the earth the fruits of the Gospel will be manifest. In my boyhood I went to Sabbath school, under old Dr. Porter. I read the New Testament; I read about the gifts and graces that Christ and His Apostles had; and I asked Dr. Porter why it was that they did not contend for this faith, and why they did not have these gifts and graces. "Oh," said he, "those things were given in the dark ages of the world, to convince the world that Jesus was the Christ. We live to-day in the glorious Gospel light of Christ, and we do not need them." Then, said I, for God's sake give me the dark ages of the world! That has been my spirit from that day to this. Here are thousands of men and women in this house, if they had the opportunity, could rise up and bear testimony that the fruits of the Gospel which the Apostles enjoyed are with these people. These Elders who have traveled thousands of miles can bear testimony that wherever this Gospel has been preached and wherever the Elders of Israel have administered, the gifts and graces have followed them. I bear testimony to this. My brethren can bear testimony to it. The sick have been healed, devils have been cast out, the lame have leaped, the deaf have heard, and all the gifts and graces that ever were manifest have been enjoyed among these Elders of Israel.

Several years ago I met a man and woman here in the street. The woman said, "Do you know me?" I said I do not. "Do you know this man that is with me?" "No, I do not." "Why," said she, "you laid hands on this boy in Herefordshire fifty years ago. He was dumb founded —never spoke a word till you laid hands upon him and blessed him; and he has spoken ever since." We have no business to claim to be Saints of the living God without we have the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and if we have that these gifts will be with us. You know this as well as I do. Joseph Smith had the whole spirit and power of this resting upon him while he lived. He taught these principles to us, and they have been realized, and will be until this scene is wound up. This work shows for itself. That Gospel was taught Joseph Smith by an angel, as John the Revelator says:

And I saw another another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come.

Yes, the hour of God's judgment is come, and we should be prepared. Who besides the Latter-day Saints, since the days of Christ and His Apostles, have ever taught the principle of the redemption of the dead? Here we have four temples reared in this State by the Latter-day Saints, and tens of thousands of the dead have been redeemed by the administration of the Gospel of Christ to their posterity or friends. This is one of the evidences of the fulfillment of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The prophet says, "Saviors shall come upon mount Zion * * and the kingdom shall be the Lord's." If we were not the saints of God, we could not do this. Whatever other dispensations may have done in this direction, we have no record of it. Jesus Himself preached this doctrine. While His body lay in the tomb He went and preached to those who were in the spirit world, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh. This work is with the Latter-day Saints, and will remain with us.

We lost one of our Apostles a short time since. He was about the youngest man in the quorum of the Apostles. He was called suddenly away from us. There is a meaning to this. Many times things take place with us that we do not comprehend, unless it is given to us by revelation. But there is a meaning in the loss of that young Apostle. I had a manifestation of that while in San Francisco recently. One evening, as I fell asleep, I was very much troubled with evil spirits, that tried to afflict me; and while laboring to throw off these spirits and their influence, there was another spirit visited me that seemed to have power over the evil spirits, and they departed from me. Before he left me he told me not to grieve because of the departure of Abraham Hoagland Cannon; for the Lord had called him to fill another important mission in the spirit world, as a pure and holy Apostle from Zion in the Rocky Mountains—a labor which would not only prove a great benefit to his father's household, but to the Church and kingdom of God on the earth. I feel to name this, because it is true. I have become acquainted with many things in our history that I have marveled at. While in the St. George Temple I had a son, who was in the north country, drowned. He was 21 years of age, and was a faithful young man. He had a warning of this. In a dream he was notified how he would die. We had testimony of that after his death. I asked the Lord why he was taken from me. The answer to me was, "You are doing a great deal for the redemption of your dead; but the law of redemption requires some of your own seed in the spirit world to attend to work connected with this." That was a new principle to me; but it satisfied me why he was taken away. I name this, because there are a great many instances like it among the Latter-day Saints. This was the case with Brother Abraham Cannon. He was taken away to fulfill that mission. And where we have anything of this kind, we should leave it in the hands of God to reconcile.

Let us try as Latter-day Saints to qualify ourselves to do the will of God and bear off His kingdom, and be true and faithful to the end, which may God grant, for Christ's sake. Amen.

A MINT IN THE SEA.

In this gold-seeking age the announcement that sea-water contains a fairly uniform though small quantity of gold is sure to attract the interest of speculators. This will be so especially when they learn that there exists in solution in sea-water many millions of tons of gold. Such would appear to be the case, according to Professor Liversidge, the Professor of Chemistry in Sidney University. In a very remarkable and exhaustive series of experiments which he has made there is considerable evidence in favor of gold being present in sea-water off the New South Wales coast in the proportion of about half to one grain per ton, or in round numbers from 130 to 260 tons of gold per cubic mile. This, of course, means an enormous amount for the whole of the ocean, the cubic contents of which are put down approximately at 400,000,000 cubic miles, and if the gold be uniformly present at the rate of one grain per ton the total amount would be over 100,000,000,000 tons of gold. If only a loadstone for gold could be found which would attract gold and separate it from its solution doubtless a very important stimulus would be given to the dividend-earning capacity of our ocean liners. Thus, in addition to carrying passengers and cargo, they would plough the deep to reap a rich harvest each passage by hanging a dredger, so to speak, astern which at the end of the voyage would be relieved of its auriferous and valuable collection. We fear, however, that the precious metal will not be recovered from the sea as easily as this, considering its strong affinity for the salts of sea-water. Otherwise gold would soon cease to be a rare metal, and this fact would also place bimetallism, in a very serious position.

Li Hung Chang holds strong views on the subject of foreign missionaries in China. He does not believe in them. In conversation with an American missionary he argued that as long as Christianity was represented by so large a number of opposing sects in the country it could make no real headway. "Which sect was the poor Chinaman to believe in?" he asked, adding that if the Chinese were to send missionaries to New York to convert the Americans to Confucian doctrine such men would, at all events, be agreed, and preach one religion, good or bad. "But," said the missionary, "we are agreed on many of the essential points." "Well then," replied his excellency, "when you have settled on the other details among yourselves that will be soon enough for you to come and convert us." Li Hung Chang does not personally object to missionaries, and admits that their hospitals have been of material service, but he resents their endeavors to educate Chinese women. He said that, rightly or wrongly, the Chinese did not believe in the education of women, and followed this up with the astonishing statement that nothing could persuade the average Chinaman that the girls' schools were not immoral institutions. "If missionaries," he added, "wish to be unmolested in China, you must abolish the schools for girls. You must not trample on all our prejudices. America is a free country, and you can educate anybody there if you like. China is not; nothing you can do will make it so."

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1885.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

CONFIDENCE in one another, and especially in the presiding authorities of the Church, whose integrity has been so thoroughly tested, should be cultivated and encouraged by the Saints. An example of the confidence that ought to exist among them was related by President Lorenzo Snow in the course of his remarks one afternoon at the late Semi-Annual Conference of the Church, held in Salt Lake City. He said:

"I am reminded of a little anecdote I heard of Brother Erastus Snow, which illustrates a principle. Brother George A. Smith was speaking to an "outside" audience one night, and Brother Erastus fell asleep. When he got through preaching he sat down and elbowed Brother Erastus, and requested him to bear his testimony. It was thought that Brother Erastus had scarcely heard a word; but he arose and said,

"My friends, every word that my brother here has said is God's truth."

"Now, why did he say so? There was a reason for this. Why, he knew Brother George A. Smith; he had heard him preach a hundred times, and he knew that he was a man of inspiration, and that he would never say anything but that which was true. Well, I think when a man is so well acquainted with the First Presidency, with the Apostles, with the Patriarch, with the Presidents of Seventies, and with the presiding Bishops, he ought to have some confidence in the position of these brethren."

MISSIONARIES should always endeavor to make friends wherever they go. The benefit of doing so is often illustrated by occurrences that happen. One came to our knowledge recently. Some Elders by frequently calling to spend an evening with a certain member of the Church, got acquainted with a relative of the family who belonged to another denomination. Through this acquaintance the stranger got to know the character of these Elders and formed a very favorable opinion of them, and what prejudice he may have had against the Latter-day Saints was removed. But this was not all. In his conversation among the men with whom he worked he told them of his meeting with these Mormon missionaries. He found his working companions were also prejudiced against the Saints, having heard so many false stories about them. Being an honest man, and a lover of truth and justice, he took it upon himself to defend the Mormon people; and, being acquainted with several of the missionaries and knowing their object in coming here, he could explain their motives and testify to their sincerity.

ELDERS GEORGE ALLAN and James R. Hoggan, who are laboring as missionaries in Alloa, Scotland, recently in reporting their labors to the President of the Scottish Conference, give the following account of one of their meetings:

"We had a large and interesting meeting at Clackmanan last Sunday evening. On Saturday evening we got the bell-man to go around ringing his bell to announce the meeting. As a result, the kirk hall was crowded full, and all the people who desired to could not get in. The people helped us to sing and they sang beautifully. We preached to them with much freedom. They seemed to be well pleased with the meeting, and dropped pennies into a contribution box that was in the room. The amount received was enough to pay the expenses of the hall.

"We have had many cottage meetings, and the people are all feeling good, and some of them are converted to the truth."

THE *Southern Echo*, a newspaper of Southampton, publishes in its issue of November 14, 1896, an interview with Elders George Hilton and George Whetman, who are laboring in that place. Over a column of space is devoted to the interview. It appears that the reporter either depended upon his memory for some of the statements made to him by the Elders, or else misunderstood them, as a few of them are not strictly correct. The mistakes are seemingly not intentionally made, as the report is given in a spirit of fairness. No feeling of prejudice or bitterness towards the Saints is manifested by the writer, and we believe what is published will do good in directing attention to our people and to the labors of the missionaries.

AN Elder, laboring in the London Conference, was recently relating his experience. Among other things he succeeded in converting a lady to the Gospel. "The next thing," said he, "was to find a place to baptize her. We first went to the riverside, but there were too many people there; then we went to the public baths, but they wanted 10 shillings, and we didn't have the money; we then thought we'd try the Baptist Church and find out how much they would charge for the use of their font. 'Oh,' said the minister, 'bring her along' we'll baptize her for nothing.'"

IN another part of this issue of the STAR will be found an article by Elder George S. Spencer, President of the Netherlands Mission. The writer narrates several cases of persons being healed by the administration of the holy ordinances of the Gospel. They are a few of the many instances where the signs follow the believers, as promised by the Savior. Other instances of remarkable healing have been witnessed recently among the Saints in various parts of this mission, as well as in all places where the Gospel is being preached.

THE Elders of the Leeds Conference convened a district meeting in Bradford on Sunday, the 15th inst. Two sessions were held, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Both were well attended, and many strangers were present. The hall in which the meetings were held was said to hold three hundred people, and it was nearly filled on each occasion.

Arrivals.—On November 13, 1896, the following named Elders arrived here from Zion, per American Line Steamer, *Belgenland*: For the British Mission—William R. Davis, Wales; David Archibald, Granite. For the Scandinavian Mission—P. G. Hanson, Payson; Peter Erickson, Salt Lake City.

Fourteen missionaries from Zion arrived in Liverpool on November 18, 1896, per American Line steamer *Waesland*. Their names are as follows: For the British Mission—Thomas Bennett, Eagle Rock, Idaho; James Blake, George H. Dansie, Riverton; Theodore C. Best, Mill Creek; Levi G. Richards, Salt Lake City; Joseph Nuttall, Provo; Vincent Pugmire, St. Charles, Idaho. For the Scandinavian Mission—George A. Millerberg, Union; John A. Anderson, East Jordan; Dykes W. Sorensen, Ephraim; Hans T. Peterson, Smithfield; Andrew Dahlsrud, Salina. For the Swiss and German Mission—Martin Schwab, Afton, Wyoming; F. Neunschwander, Thayn, Wyoming.

Releases and Appointments.—William R. Davis has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Welsh Conference.

David Archibald has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Scottish Conference.

George R. Moses has been released from laboring as a Traveling Elder in the Scottish Conference to return home December 3, 1896.

William Jones and Thos. S. Bladen have been released from laboring as Traveling Elders in the Welsh Conference to return home December 3, 1896.

Henry Coulam has been released from laboring as a Traveling Elder in the Leeds Conference to return home December 3, 1896.

Z. T. Derrick has been released from laboring as a Traveling Elder in the Newcastle Conference to return home December 3, 1896.

Thomas Bennett and Theodore C. Best have been appointed to labor as Traveling Elders in the Liverpool Conference.

James Blake has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Manchester Conference.

George H. Dansie has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Cheltenham Conference.

Levi G. Richards has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Sheffield Conference.

Joseph Nuttall has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Leeds Conference.

Vincent Pugmire has been appointed to labor as a Traveling Elder in the Newcastle Conference.

District Conference Notice.—A District Conference will be held in Discussion Hall, 34 Adelaide Street, Heywood, Sunday, November 29, 1896. Meetings will be held at 10:30 a.m., and at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Seats free. No collections.

HEALED BY FAITH.

Just previous to one of our late Conferences we called on the president of the Rotterdam Branch, Elder J. J. DeBry, on our way to meeting one evening and found to our surprise that he had been taken suddenly ill. On being admitted to the sick room we noticed that something unusual had occurred and felt instinctively the presence of an evil power. Approaching the bed we looked the brother in the eye and the feeling that we were confronted with an evil spirit who was trying to prevent Elder DeBry from attending conference and performing his duties was confirmed. One of the brethren, giving utterance to his conviction, said "It shall be banished."

On our return from meeting Elders F. Pieper, W. D. Bingham, and G. S. Spencer administered to the brother, Elder Bingham confirming and Elder Spencer anointing. Just as soon as the last named Elder's hands touched the afflicted man's head his body began to writhe and his face to assume a terrible expression of pain, the patient giving vent to groans or half screams. As soon as the anointing had been confirmed and the evil spirit rebuked in the name of Jesus Christ; the wild man of a few minutes before, torn with indescribable pains had become as calm as a sleeping child. The re-action was so great that he did not move nor speak for several minutes, from mere exhaustion. The next day he was around tending to his duties, and was enabled to attend the conference meetings the following Sunday, and to testify before two hundred or more people, that God had in very deed restored the same priesthood to earth, that was held by His servants in former days, and that the sick are healed and devils cast out now, through the ordinances of the Gospel, as they were then.

In speaking to Elder Spencer afterwards, Brother DeBry said his feelings were excruciatingly painful and indescribable, and that while the ordinance was being performed the evil spirit tempted and tried to force him to snatch the Elders' hands from his head and to prevent the ordinance.

A little daughter of the same brother was afflicted with a swelling under the eye about the size of a large bean, this lump had become very hard and it was feared would affect the eyesight. He had been told that there remained but one chance of removing it and that was by having a small operation performed; but being averse to this he decided to ask the Elders to rebuke it through administration. They did so, and the same afternoon, notwithstanding the previous hardness, the swelling broke and the following day had disappeared, with the exception of a small spot to denote the place where it had been.

These are but two instances among many which have occurred of the signs following the believer in fulfillment of the promise of our Lord.

A short time ago while visiting Saints and friends in Arnhem. Elders Nyveld and Denkers were called to administer to a little child. The parents are not members of the Church. The mother, a Mrs. Derickson, believes the Gospel implicitly and would join but is prevented by her husband. In expressing her desire for the administration she explained

that the child was three years old and unable to walk; that the spinal column was becoming crooked and she was afraid it would cause disease or end in a serious deformity for life; but, said she, "I feel if you brethren will come and lay hands on and administer to him he will be healed."

On arrival at the lady's house the Elders found the child in a very weak condition and unable to sit upright. The spinal column had become crooked through weakness until it formed quite a projection between the shoulder blades. Before going to perform the ordinance the brethren had felt unusually impressed to be in such a condition themselves that the Lord could fellowship with them. They were therefore very strict even to the especial cleansing of the hands. Elder Nyveld in pronouncing the blessing was led to say that the child should become strong, its back straightened, and that it should commence to walk as other children. The next day the child began to walk along the chairs in the room, the projection has disappeared and its back has become strong and well.

GEORGE S. SPENCER.

MAKING DIAMONDS BY HAND.

THE visit which the French chemist, Henri Moissan, is now making in this country draws fresh attention to his interesting experiments a few years ago in producing diamonds. The jewels were not large enough to be valuable, and the apparatus employed was rather costly. It is not at all likely, therefore, that he will ever try to compete with Nature in supplying the world's markets. But the story appeals to the imagination of even the most sluggish hearer.

A diamond is carbon in its purest form, and is therefore closely allied to wood and coal. But it is crystallized carbon, and in order to make a diamond one must melt carbon and compel it to crystallize. But this task is attended with many and great difficulties. A great degree of heat is requisite which is not easily produced, and which will melt almost every other known substance first. Only by means of an electric current could Moissan obtain the necessary temperature. For a furnace he used a block of lime, hollowed out on the inside. His electric wires terminated with carbon tips that were inserted in opposite sides of the little receptacle.

In the next place the tendency of melted carbon, on cooling, is to assume the form of graphite, which is the soft, black substance out of which the core of our "lead pencils" is made. Clear, white crystals, hard enough to cut the toughest steel, are a very different thing in appearance and properties, though practically the same substance chemically. Only under very great pressure can the carbon be induced to crystallize. And if one stops and thinks of it, he sees that it is not easy to apply pressure to a minute quantity of any substance that has been heated, without allowing the latter to cool a good deal first. However, a way has been found to get around that difficulty, too. The carbon is melted with a quantity of iron in the electrical furnace. In certain steel-making experiments years ago it was found that at a very high temperature carbon would remain mixed with iron in a particular proportion, but, on cooling, part of it would

separate and form little grains or buttons of graphite here and there in the metal. That discovery gave Moissan a hint, for he saw that in cooling the metal would also contract and thus squeeze such carbon as should have accumulated in microscopic pockets. Acting on this idea, he succeeded in getting some exceedingly small but genuine white diamonds. The iron must be allowed to cool very slowly, he says, and a great many times the experiment is a failure. He does not see any money in the business, but his achievement was a beautiful triumph of scientific reasoning and skill. —*New York Tribune.*

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS.

One of the gifts of the Gospel which the Lord has promised to those who enter into covenant with Him is the gift of discerning of spirits—a gift which is not much thought of by many, and probably seldom prayed for, and yet it is a gift that is of exceeding value, and one that should be enjoyed by every Latter-day Saint.

There are grounds for believing that there is not that solicitude about the different gifts of the gospel on the part of the Saints that there should be. They are not sought for with the diligence and faith which they deserve. Think how precious are the promises of the Lord concerning the gifts to those who will keep His commandments! They are of priceless value, and yet they are within easy reach, we may say, of every faithful man and woman. The Lord has said in a revelation to the Church that the Saints should "seek earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily, I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments." How many Latter-day Saints are there who supplicate the Lord for the gifts which they need? How many Elders ask to have the gift of healing given unto them? How many Saints ask the Lord to bestow upon them the gift to be healed? Is the gift of prophecy sought for as it should be? or the gift of revelation, the gift of wisdom, the gift of knowledge, the gifts of faith, hope and charity? No doubt, many of the Latter-day Saints do beseech the Lord in earnestness and faith to bestow upon them these and other gifts that they may need.

A man may have an irritable disposition—how can he best conquer it?

By asking the Lord for the gift of patience.

A man may be disposed to be gloomy and despondent, and low-spirited. What course had he better take to correct this?

The Lord has promised to His people a gift which is called the gift of hope. By supplicating Him in faith for that gift, it can be received; and when a man is filled with hope he does not feel despondment, nor does he take gloomy views of life. How much happier one can be who has the gift of hope than if he were destitute of it!

Another may be disposed to take harsh views of the conduct of his fellow man and be critical and fault-finding.

By seeking for the gift of charity this disposition can be corrected.

A man may be unable to express himself with any degree of freedom; his language may be poor, his style of delivery very imperfect.

But the Lord has promised the gift of utterance to those who seek for it and are in need of it. When a man receives the gift of utterance he is able to speak freely and to express his thoughts clearly.

In this manner every defect in the human character can be corrected through the exercise of faith and pleading with the Lord for the gifts that He has said He will give unto those who believe and obey His commandments.

To return, however, to the gift of discerning of spirits. No Latter-day Saint should be without this gift, because there is such a variety of spirits in the world which seek to deceive and lead astray. In another revelation to the Church upon the spirits which have gone abroad in the earth, the Lord says: "Behold, verily I say unto you, that there are many spirits which are false spirits, which have gone forth in the earth, deceiving the world." The Lord warns the Saints and says: "Beware least ye are deceived." And that they may not be deceived, He commands them to seek earnestly the best gifts.

The apostle John says:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

This counsel of the beloved apostle applies as much to us in these latter days as it did to the Saints of his age. All manner of spirits have gone forth to deceive, to lead astray, and to obtain possession of the children of men; and many people yield to them because they are invisible, and cannot, perhaps, think that they can be possessed by invisible influences. Anger, backbiting, slander, falsehood, and various passions are manifested by people under the influence of false and deceptive spirits. We have seen persons naturally well-disposed, kind, considerate and just, become completely changed and say and do things that were entirely unlike them. They would show by their features, by their voice, and by their whole manner that they were not themselves. Under this influence they would speak untruths, indulge in harsh judgment, criticize and condemn, and be altogether unjust, and apparently think themselves justified in this conduct. Why were they in this condition? They were, without doubt, under the influence of a bad spirit. Perhaps without their knowledge they were possessed, and could not realize that a satanic influence had control over them.

Now, the gift of discerning of spirits not only gives men and women who have it the power to discern the spirit with which others may be possessed or influenced, but it gives them the power to discern the spirit which influences themselves. They are able to detect a false spirit, and also to know when the Spirit of God reigns within them. So that in private life this gift is of great importance to the Latter-day Saints. Possessing and exercising this gift, they will not allow any evil influence to enter into their hearts or to prompt them in their thoughts, their words, or their acts. They will repel it; and if perchance such a spirit should

get possession of them, as soon as they witness its effects they will expel it, or, in other words, refuse to be led or prompted by it.

The gift of discerning of spirits, also, is one that is of great importance to the Elders who are laboring in the ministry. We have known Elders become so filled with zeal and so desirous to do good, or what they supposed to be good, that they exposed themselves to the influence of the adversary. They would be filled with a species of what has been called "wildfire," and, carried away by zeal, they would go too far; they would say and do imprudent things, and yet, being prompted by the purest and best motives, would feel entirely justified in their course. In the history of the Church there have been many illustrations of this. Elders can work themselves up beyond that which is proper and wise and be led to say and do many imprudent things and overstep the line of propriety. Now, the gift of discerning of spirits is necessary to keep these kind of feelings in check.

The gift of discerning spirits is not only necessary for this purpose, but it is necessary in the branches of the Church. Newly baptized members, anxious to obtain the gifts, are liable sometimes to be taken advantage of by the adversary and to imbibe or yield to a wrong spirit. A newly organized branch of the Church where the gifts are manifested, especially the gift of tongues, has to be watched with great care. The Elders laboring in the branch or presiding in the conference must be in a position to discern between the Spirit of the Lord and other spirits that may seek to steal in. Elders who have had much experience in the ministry can doubtless remember instances where the gift of tongues has been bestowed that it has required the discernment of the Priesthood to detect and check false spirits.

In all the situations in life, therefore, in which Latter-day Saints can be placed, there is great need for them to possess the gift of discerning of spirits. Fathers and mothers need it for their own benefit. They need it in their families, in the training of their children. All Saints need it to enable them to escape from the many evil influences that are abroad. The Elders need it for their own sakes; they need it also in the government of the branches, of the conferences, of the wards, of the stakes, and, indeed, the entire Church. It is a great and blessed gift, and it should be sought for by all.—GEORGE Q. CANNON, *in Juvenile Instructor.*

GENERAL NEWS.

The emigration from Spain is causing serious uneasiness, as in many districts there are not enough persons left to attend to agricultural operations.

A great Anglo-American syndicate is stated to have been formed in Chicago to develop Chinese trade by the construction of more than 2,000 miles of railway and the execution of other public improvements in the Chinese Empire.

A despatch from Serajevo, Bosnia, on the 14th inst., states that great devastation has been caused by floods in Bosnia, and that thirteen persons while engaged in the work of rescue were drowned. Up to the present the bodies of five of them have been recovered.

A treaty of peace has been agreed upon between Italy and Abyssinia. It includes a convention for the release of the prisoners. The treaty of peace begins with the general